

Amendments to the Claims:

This claim listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1.-4. Cancelled

5. (Currently Amended) A β -lactamase inhibitor of Formula **II**:



wherein Y is O or alkylene, and X is alkylene, cycloalkylene, ~~fused heterocycle,~~
~~heteroarylene,~~ or arylene, wherein the alkylene, cycloalkylene, ~~fused heterocycle,~~
~~heteroarylene,~~ and arylene groups may be optionally substituted; provided that X is not
phenylethene.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The inhibitor according to claim 5 [[6]], wherein X is phenylene.

8.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a β -lactamase inhibitor
of Formula **II**:



wherein Y is O or alkylene, and X is alkylene, cycloalkylene, ~~fused heterocycle,~~
~~heteroarylene,~~ or arylene, wherein the alkylene, cycloalkylene, ~~fused heterocycle,~~

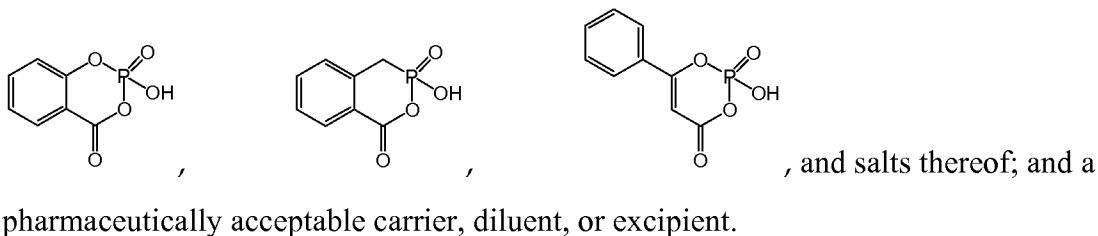
~~heteroarylene~~, and arylene groups may be optionally substituted; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein X is phenylene.

19.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a β -lactamase inhibitor having the structure:

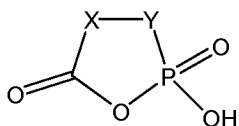


23. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 16, ~~or 22~~ further comprising an antibiotic agent.

24. (Original) The composition according to claim 23, wherein the antibiotic agent is a β -lactam antibiotic.

25.-50. (Cancelled)

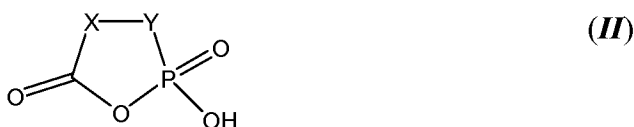
51. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting β -lactamase activity, comprising administering a β -lactamase inhibitor of Formula **II**:



(II)

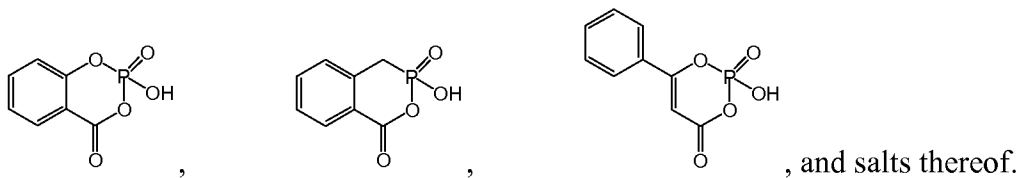
wherein Y is O or alkylene, and X is alkylene, cycloalkylene, ~~fused heterocycle,~~
~~heteroarylene,~~ or arylene, wherein the alkylene, cycloalkylene, ~~fused heterocycle,~~
~~heteroarylene,~~ and arylene groups may be optionally substituted.

52. (Canceled)
53. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 51 ~~52~~, wherein X is phenylene.
54. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 51, further comprising an antibiotic agent.
55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 54, wherein the antibiotic agent is a β -lactam antibiotic.
56. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting bacterial growth, comprising administering a β -lactamase inhibitor of Formula **II**:



wherein Y is O or alkylene, and X is alkylene, cycloalkylene, ~~fused heterocycle,~~
~~heteroarylene,~~ or arylene, wherein the alkylene, cycloalkylene, ~~fused heterocycle,~~
~~heteroarylene,~~ and arylene groups may be optionally substituted.

57. (Canceled)
58. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 56 ~~57~~, wherein X is phenylene.
59. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting bacterial growth, comprising administering a β -lactamase inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:



60. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 56 ~~or 59~~, further comprising administering an antibiotic agent.
61. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein the antibiotic agent is a β -lactam antibiotic.
62. (New) The composition according to claim 22, further comprising an antibiotic agent.
63. (New) The composition according to claim 62, wherein the antibiotic agent is a β -lactam antibiotic.
64. (New) The method according to claim 59, further comprising administering an antibiotic agent.
65. (New) The method according to claim 64, wherein the antibiotic agent is a β -lactam antibiotic.